

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7816

CHUSELM

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 6120

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR, PK

SUBJECT: NEW PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF M. M. ABBAS, UNTIL RECENTLY MFA ADDITIONAL SECRETARY (ADMINISTRATION), AS ITS NEW AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY JUNE 22. THE NEW AMBASSADOR IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO JOINED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1947. HE HAS SERVED IN NEW DELHI, KABUL, OTTAWA, ROME, BANGKOK, AND -- AS AMBASSADOR -- IN KATHMANDU (1966-67) AND CANBERRA (1971-75). IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HE SERVED AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR AMERICAS AND WESTERN EUROPE (1967-71). HE HAS BEEN IN HIS PRESENT JOB SINCE 1975.

2. AMBASSADOR ABBAS WAS BORN IN 1921 AND HAS A B.A. (HONS) AND AN M.A. IN HISTORY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB. HE IS MARRIED, HAS THREE GROWN DAUGHTERS, AND REPORTEDLY SPEAKS FLUENT FARSI AND PUSHTO, AS WELL AS URDU AND ENGLISH.

3. ABBAS IS REPORTED TO BE A VERY CORDIAL INDIVIDUAL. HE HAS BEEN POPULAR IN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITIES AT HIS PREVIOUS AMBASSADORIAL POSTINGS, AND HAS BEEN JUDGED PRO-WESTERN AND PRO-AMERICAN. HOWEVER, OTHER COMMENTS BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE KNOW HIM OVER THE YEARS SUGGEST --

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PERHAPS HARSHLY THAT HIS ABILITIES ARE AVERAGE, HIS MENTAL PROCESSES, SOMETHING LESS THAN PROFOUND, AND HIS GRASP OF SUBSTANCE ISSUES, A BIT WEAK.

HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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